

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8377

UNCLAS ACCRA 4230

FOR AF/W-MCGUIRE AND FOR SCA/SCS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CPRS, EFIN, SEDU, GH(BERGER, PAUL) (HENDRICKSON, JAMES)

SUBJECT: DR. BERGER'S REMITTANCE PROBLEM, AND OTHERS' SIMILAR PROBLEMS

REFS: (A) STATE 124370 (B) DEPT. (SCS) OM, MAY 3, 1977

1. CAO WROTE VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, APR. 20, 1977 IN EFFORT TO EXPEDITE RESOLUTION OF BERGER'S PROBLEM. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY, NO DOUBT DUE TO FACT THAT GOG HAS CLOSED DOWN UNIVERSITIES IN THE INTERIM.

2. E/C COUNS SAW DEPUTY GOVERNOR, BANK OF GHANA (YAW MANU SARPONG) JUNE 3. GAVE HIM COPY OF BERGER'S MARCH 7, 1977 LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT, NOTED APR. 20 LETTER TO UST VICE CHANCELLOR, REPORTED GHANA CONGEN NEW YORK AND MINISTRY OF TRADE INTERVENTION (REFTEL A), AND REQUESTED EXPEDITIOUS SOLUTION OF PROBLEM. SARPONG SYMPATHETIC, IMMEDIATELY CALLED FOR FULL FILE, AND PROMISED TO RESPOND TO EMBASSY SOON.

3. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT AF/W ALREADY IN CONTACT WITH BERGER, IT APPEARS BEST TO HAVE A SINGLE CHANNEL TO HIM. THEREFORE, DO NOT RPT NOT PROPOSE TO REPLY DIRECTLY TO HIM, AS SUGGESTED REF B, UNLESS FURTHER INSTRUCTED. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED.

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4. ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO RAISE SIMILAR CASE (WHICH WE BELIEVE NOT YET BROUGHT TO WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION, SINCE HE WROTE ACCRA DIRECTLY) ON BEHALF PROF. JAMES HENDRICKSON OF BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, FORMERLY AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST. GOT SIMILAR RESPONSE FROM SARPONG. CAO WROTE HENDRICKSON MAY 16 GIVING STATUS.

5. FINALLY, EMBOFF TOOK OCCASION OF CALL ON SARPONG TO RAISE

ONCE AGAIN (AS EMBASSY DOES EACH POSSIBLE OCCASION WITH GOG) GENERAL QUESTION OF REMITTANCE LAGS, NOTABLY INCLUDING PROCEEDS OF FORCED SHARE SALES UNDER INVESTMENT POLICY DECREE, AIRLINE TICKET SALES, AND DIVIDENDS. EMBOFF REFERRED TO PRESS REPORT FEW DAYS AGO (MENTIONED IN ONLY ONE OF TWO ACCRA DAILIES) THAT CHAIRMAN ACHEAMPONG PROMISED VISITING SWISS BUSINESSMAN THAT SOME SHARE PROCEEDS AND DIVIDENDS WOULD BE REMITTED SOON, AND ASKED WHETHER ANY TIMETABLE ESTABLISHED FOR THIS. SARPONG ANSWERED IN NEGATIVE. EMBOFF POINTED OUT EFFECT THESE LONG REMITTANCE DELAYS HAVE UPON GHANAIAIN INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC REPUTATION. SARPONG ACKNOWLEDGED BANK OF GHANA FULLY AWARE THESE IMPLICATIONS, AND ACTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN AS POSSIBLE RPT POSSIBLE. HE CLAIMED AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH AIRLINES TO RESCHEDULE 1976 TICKET SALES REMITTANCES OVER 12 MONTHS. SMITH

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